

REMARKS

By this Amendment, claims 2-7, 10, 12, 13, 16-23, 26, 30, 32-36, 41-45 are amended and claims 1, 15, 31, 37-40 and 46-54 are canceled. Accordingly, claims 2-14, 16-30, 32-36 and 41-45 are pending in this application.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Office Action's indication that claims 2, 6, 7, 16, 20, 21, 32, 34, 35, 41, 43, 44, 12-14, 26-28, 36, 45 recite allowable subject matter. Accordingly, Applicants rewrite claims 2, 16, 32 and 41 in independent form.

Applicants appreciate the courtesies shown to Applicants' representative by Examiner Von Buhr in the September 27 personal interview. Applicants incorporate a separate record of the substance of the interview into the following remarks.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-36, 39-51 and 54 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as being indefinite. As agreed during the personal interview, the rejection of claims 1, 15, 31, 39, 40, 46-51 and 54 is moot in light of the cancellation of these claims. Furthermore, as agreed during the personal interview, remaining claims 2-14, 16-30, 32-36 and 41-45 as amended particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

The Office Action rejects claims 37-39 and 52-54 under 35 U.S.C. §101. As agreed during the personal interview, this rejection is moot in light of the cancellation of these claims. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

The Office Action objects to claims 47 and 49-51 as being substantial duplicates of claims 41 and 43-45. As agreed during the personal interview, this objection is moot in view of the cancellation of these claims. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 3, 5, 8, 11, 15, 17, 19, 22, 25, 29-31, 33, 40, 42, 46 and 48 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 5,210,667 to Zammitt.

As agreed during the personal interview, this rejection is moot with respect to canceled claims 1, 15, 31, 40, 46 and 48 and the remaining claims 1, 3, 5, 8, 11, 17, 19, 22, 25, 29, 30, 33, and 42 as amended. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 3-5, 8-11, 15, 17-19, 22-25, 29-31, 33, 40, 42, 46 and 48 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,347,983 to Hao et al. As agreed during the personal interview, this rejection is moot with respect to canceled claims 1, 15, 31, 40, 46 and 48 and the remaining claims 3-5, 8-11, 17-19, 22-25, 29, 30, 33, and 42 as amended.

Thus, as agreed during the personal interview, pending claims 2-14, 16-30, 32-36 and 41-45 are allowable and all of the outstanding rejections and objections will be withdrawn.

In view of at least the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Applicants earnestly solicit favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 2-14, 16-30, 32-36 and 41-45.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, Applicants invite the Examiner to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Jesse O. Collier
Registration No. 53,839

JAO:JOC/tea

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OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

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